LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An issue tracking system, comprising:

a centralized server operable to transmit a graphical user interface for tracking project issues of a group project over a network to a client device, the graphical user interface being displayable on the client device without installation of the graphical user interface on the client device and enabling a project member to chronicle issues that need to be undertaken within the group project including their statuses, classifications, and individual responsibilities, wherein the statuses comprises indications of a next step that needs to be taken by one or more group members or users on the group project and the classifications comprise costs or values of a specific issue according to group management or administrator;

a database coupled to the centralized server operable to provide the graphical user interface to the centralized server, the database being further operable to track at least one project issue related to ~~a topic~~ the group project, to provide access through the centralized server to a plurality of users responsible for resolving said at least one project issue, and to provide a storage option for a user to upload data formats, the topic being a subject, available for selection by a user using the graphical user interface, under which the at least one project issue is related, the project issue being tracked using the issue tracking system, wherein one or more users familiar with the group project are enabled to update and view a current status of the project issue using the graphical user interface,

wherein the centralized server is further operable to transmit a notification to a responsible user for each occurrence of the following: a new project issue has been created, a step toward resolution has been entered for said at least one project issue, or said at least one project issue has been closed.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the server is operable to communicate using a hypertext markup language with the client device.

3. (Canceled)

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4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the centralized server is operable to notify the responsible user via electronic mail.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the database has a table devoted to keeping track of at least one topic corresponding to said at least one project issue being tracked.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the database has a table devoted to keeping track of said at least one project issue associated with said at least one topic.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein each of said at least one project issue comprises a description of the respective issue, a status associated with the respective issue, and a sponsor associated with the respective issue.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein each of said at least one project issue comprises a priority rating associated with the respective issue.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the database has a table devoted to keeping track of at least one step associated with said at least one project issue.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein each of said at least one step associated with said at least one project issue comprises a description of a step related to the resolution of the respective issue.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the database also maintains a list of persons responsible for a respective topic.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a network operable to transmit information stored in the database to a plurality of users.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the client device comprises a personal computer coupled to the network and having a browser operable to view the information received from the database via the network.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the database is further operable to store project issues that have been closed by a responsible user using the graphical user interface, and transmit information about a closed project issue upon receiving a request for the information.

15. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the storage option is used for uploading a legacy spreadsheet file.

16. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the storage option is used for uploading a legacy database file.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of tracking project issues, comprising:

storing a group project in a standardized format on a centralized database;

transmitting a graphical user interface for tracking project issues over a network to a client device, the graphical user interface being displayable on the client device without installation of the graphical user interface on the client device, the graphical user interface enabling a project member to chronicle issues that need to be undertaken within the group project including their statuses, classifications, and individual responsibilities, wherein the statuses comprises indications of a next step that needs to be taken by one or more group members or users on the group project and the classifications comprise costs or values of a specific issue according to group management or administrator;

adding an issue associated with the group project to the centralized database using the graphical user interface, wherein one or more users familiar with the group project are enabled to update and view a current status of the issue using the graphical user interface;

enabling users to add at least one step taken to resolve the issue to the centralized database;

transmitting a notification to a responsible user associated with the group project for each occurrence of the following: a new issue has been created for the group project, a step toward resolution has been entered for the issue, or the issue has been closed; and

providing an option to a user to upload a data file using the graphical user interface.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

closing the issue upon resolution.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the issue is closed by a system administrator associated with the database using the graphical user interface.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

adding an issue description to the centralized database using the graphical user interface.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the issue description includes a status, a priority rating, and a sponsor.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

adding a step description to the centralized database using the graphical user interface.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

receiving a request from a user for the issue and said at least one step; and

providing the issue and said at least one step to the user.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the issue and said at least one step are provided using hypertext transfer protocol via the network.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

receiving a request from the user for all issues associated with the group project; and

providing said all issues associated with the group project to the user via the graphical user interface.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein all said issues associated with said group project are provided in a user sortable format based on an issue number associated with each issue, a status associated with each issue, a priority rating associated with each issue, a classification associated with each issue, and a sponsor associated with each issue.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

receiving a request from a user to add a step to the issue;

adding the step to the centralized database; and

linking the step to the issue in the centralized database.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

storing a list comprising a plurality of responsible users for the <u>group</u> project.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

notifying the plurality of responsible users when the issue has been updated or closed.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a program for tracking project issues, the program operable to perform:

storing a <u>group</u> project on a centralized database;

transmitting a graphical user interface for tracking project issues over a network to a client device, the graphical user interface being displayable on the client device without installation of the graphical user interface on the client device<u>, the graphical user interface enabling a project member to chronicle issues that need to be undertaken within the group project including their statuses, classifications, and individual responsibilities, wherein the statuses comprises indications of a next step that needs to be taken by one or more group members or users on the group project and the classifications comprise costs or values of a specific issue according to group management or administrator;</u>;

adding an issue associated with the <u>group</u> project to the centralized database using the graphical user interface, wherein one or more users familiar with the <u>group</u> project are enabled to update and view a current status of the <u>group</u> project using the graphical user interface;

enabling users to add at least one step taken to resolve the issue to the centralized database;

transmitting a notification to a responsible user associated with the <u>group</u> project

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for each occurrence of the following: a new issue has been created for the <u>group</u> project, a step toward resolution has been entered for the issue, or the issue has been closed; and

providing an option to a user to upload a data file.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 30, the program further operable to perform:

closing the issue upon resolution.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 31, wherein the issue is closed by a system administrator associated with the database using the graphical user interface.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 30, the program further operable to perform:

adding an issue description to the centralized database using the graphical user interface.

34. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 33, wherein the issue description includes a status, a priority rating, and a sponsor.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 30, the program further operable to perform:

adding a step description to the centralized database using the graphical user interface.

36. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 30, the program further operable to perform:

receiving a request from a user for the issue and said at least one step; and

providing the issue and said at least one step to the user via the graphical user interface.

37. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 36, wherein the issue and said at least one step are provided using hypertext transfer protocol via the network.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 36, the program further operable to perform:
receiving a request from the user for all issues associated with the group project; and
providing said all issues associated with the group project to the user via the graphical user interface.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 38, wherein all said issues associated with said group project are provided in a user sortable format based on an issue number associated with each issue, a status associated with each issue, a priority rating associated with each issue, a classification associated with each issue, and a sponsor associated with each issue.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 30, the program further operable to perform:
receiving a request from a user to add a step to the issue;
adding the step to the centralized database; and
linking the step to the issue in the centralized database.

41. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 40, the program further operable to perform:
storing a list comprising a plurality of responsible users for the group project.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 41, the program further operable to perform:
notifying the plurality of responsible users when the issue has been updated or closed.